

University of Nottingham
School of Contemporary Chinese Studies
Brownbag Seminar
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Is China ————— flat?
**A minor contribution
to counterfactual geography**

Philippe Forêt
pforet@bluewin.ch

CHINA AS AN ISLAND



Scenario A

CHINA AS AN OCEAN



Scenario B

CHINA AS A WEBSITE



Scenario C

Hypothesis:	The transition from What if? to plain facts
Concepts:	Linear and flat
Methodology:	Application of G. Deleuze' s concepts to the metaphorical analysis of thematic maps and to T. Friedman and N. Klein' s lectures
Findings:	China in the levelled playfield of the global economy
Significance:	Life in a parallel world and death in this world

Deleuzian linearity: contextual definition of “line”

The French philosophers Gilles Deleuze (1925-95) and Félix Guattari (1930-92) gathered two seminal texts in *On the Line*.

In “Rhizome,” Deleuze and Guattari

- introduced a new kind of thinking, which is both non-dialectical and non-hierarchical,
- substituted pragmatic and free-floating logic to our usual binary, oppositional, and exclusive logic model,
- and offered an early template to understand the internet.

In “Politics,” Deleuze and Guattari

- envisaged society as a series of lines,
- reinvented politics as a process of flux whose outcome is always unpredictable,
- and suggested that the creativity and multiplicity of its flows can redirect and question capitalism.

Deleuzian linearity: application of the “line” concept to Chinese history

According to *On the Line*:

- China always rebounds after most of the country is destroyed.
- China starts up again on one of its old lines, or on new lines, when it is shattered at a given spot.
- A rupture occurs in China whenever segmentary lines explode into a line of flight. After each rupture, there is a danger that China will stratify again everything, from Taoist resurgences to communist concretions.
- China experts can never posit a dualism or a dichotomy, even in the rudimentary form of the good and bad.

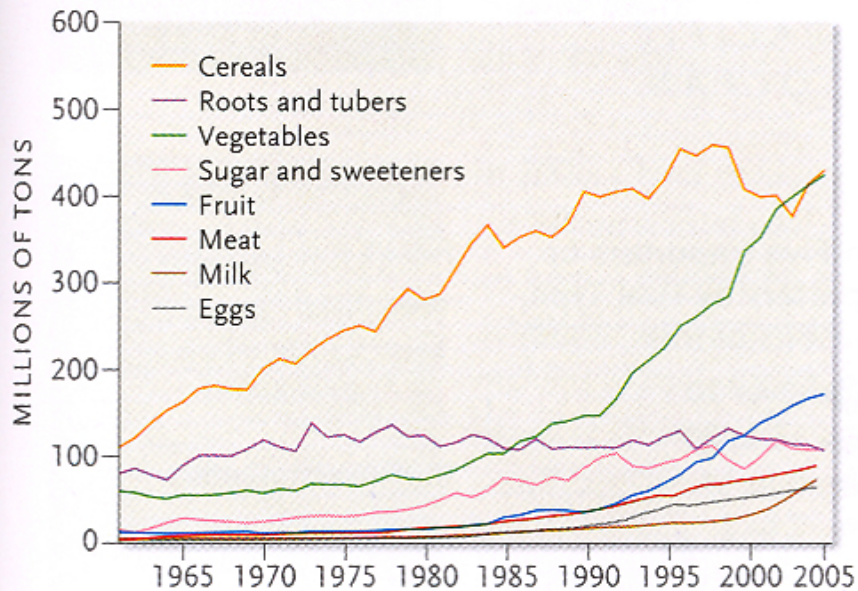


3D

Three dimensions
in universal modern cartography

Seoul today

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OVER TIME



2D

The lines of progress towards the two dimensions of modernity and its representation

China has valued the making of flat spaces, traditionally for food production and today for profit-making in the well-connected global economy.

China's vision of state-building has always been at odds with the physical reality of a country rich in hills and mountains.

We have had so far thirty centuries of unsustainable development.





Juxtaposition
of several
dimensions in
the same
locale:

From 4D
in the chaotic
and intimate
foreground
to 2D
in the rational
and vertical
background.

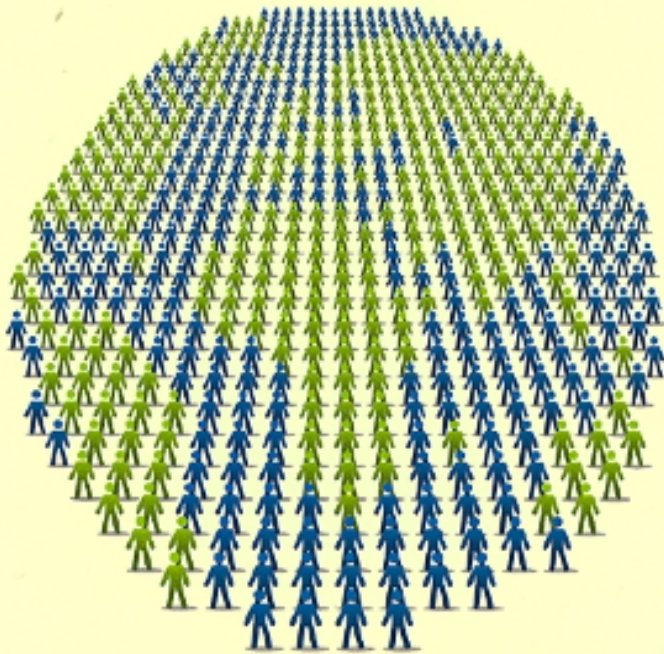
Diamond Hill,
Hong Kong



A flat environment:
Festival Walk, Kowloon Tong

A shopping mall designed with

- the minimum of connections between floors,
- large undifferentiated open spaces,
- horizontal accumulation of commercial activities.



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
***THE WORLD
IS FLAT***

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

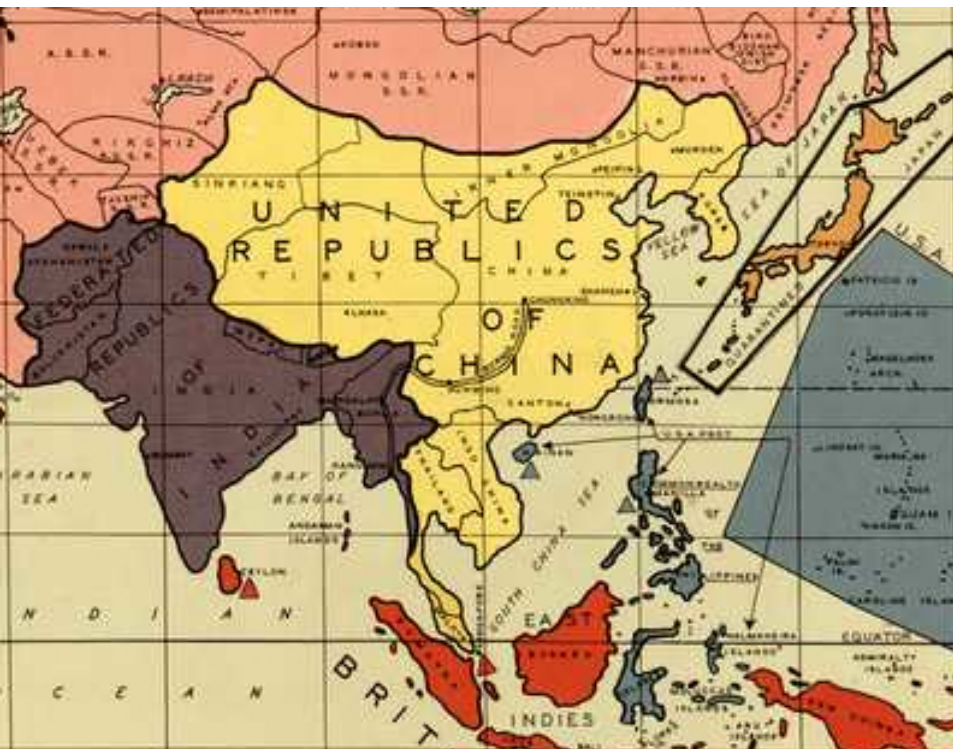
FURTHER UPDATED AND EXPANDED // RELEASE 3.0 // PICADOR

What is China's place in
Friedman's flat world?

重爆機飛行半徑



Early representations of a flat world in thematic mapping show the importance of ideology in convincing map readers.



The juxtaposition of flat geopolitical entities within a perfectly uniform world can be rich in contradictions.

A 1942 detail of an American-dominated post-war world.



Moreover, changes in the variables mapped can yield unpredictable revelations on the size and significance of flat China.

On this map the size of each country depends on the number of languages spoken.

In a linear world however,
China can be put at the centre of any issue.

TimesPeople

The New York Times

A Chain Reaction of Proliferation

"The Nuclear Express," a new book on the history of the atomic age, describes the interlocking web of influence and espionage behind the proliferation of nuclear technology.

This diagram gives a summary of the authors' tracking of the transfers of nuclear technology and secrets.

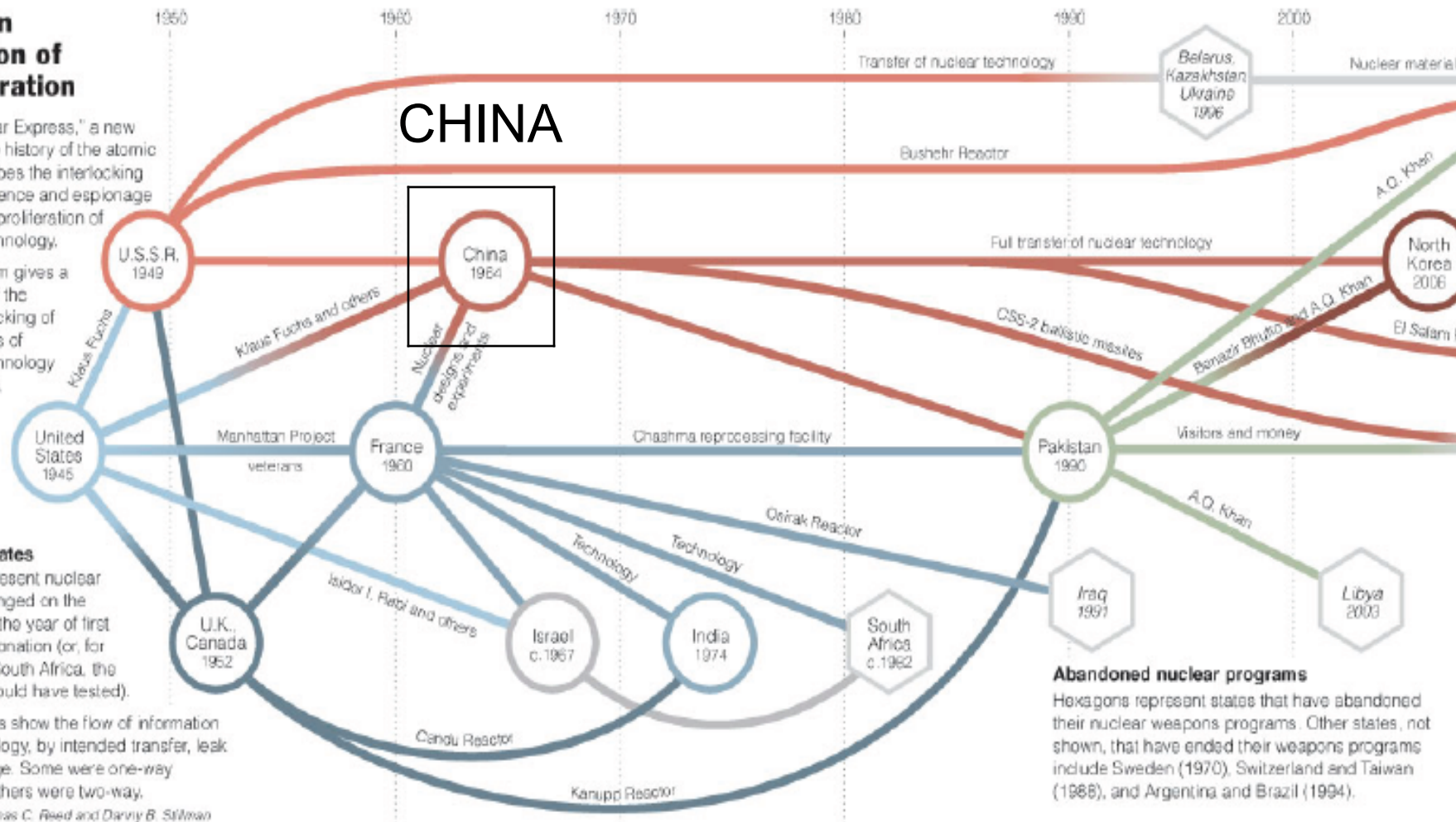
Nuclear states

Circles represent nuclear states, arranged on the timeline by the year of first nuclear detonation (or, for Israel and South Africa, the year they could have tested).

Connections show the flow of information and technology, by intended transfer, leak or espionage. Some were one-way transfers; others were two-way.

Sources: Thomas C. Reed and Darryl B. Sillman

CHINA



Maps of a flat world can easily deceive those readers who want to be fooled, ...

Most Popular ccTLDs

Domain	Country	Registrations	The most frequently registered ccTLDs today are an indicator of the world's most populous countries — at least in part.
de	Germany	11,120,000	
cn	China	6,035,000	
uk	United Kingdom	6,010,000	
nl	Netherlands	2,545,000	
it	Italy	1,426,000	China has the fastest growing ccTLD and is on pace to overtake Germany by 2016. Overall, the 10 most popular ccTLDs account for nearly 70% of all ccTLD registrations.
us	United States	1,300,000	
ar	Argentina	1,200,000	
br	Brazil	1,139,000	
ru	Russia	1,000,000	
gb	Switzerland	1,000,000	Please note that not all ccTLDs are equally easy (and cheap) to register, which is one reason some countries have had stronger growth than others.
au	Australia	953,152	
jp	Japan	905,000	

Source: ICANN, Country Specific Data Limited Research

Country Codes of the World

At the end of every URL, and email address is a top-level domain (TLD).	Of the 118 ccTLDs that have been registered, more than 31 million use ccTLDs.	This map includes 247 ccTLDs, each aligned with the country or territory it represents.	With 16 million or fewer residents.
Although some is the world's most popular TLD, it is the least used. There are more than 100 TLDs in use around the world, most of which are country code top-level domains (ccTLDs).	Some ccTLDs are easy to decipher, such as .us for Australia.	Think ccTLD is used relative to the population of the country or territory, with the exception of China and India, which were reduced by 50% to accommodate the legend. At the other end of the spectrum, the smallest type size would reference those countries.	Think geographic regions in color coded with the legend labels for easy reference.
ccTLDs are two-digit codes assigned to countries and territories.	That's where this map fits in.		

Most Populous Countries

Country	Population
China	1,321,851,888
India	1,229,856,154
United States	321,130,947
Indonesia	234,693,597
Brazil	190,910,647
Pakistan	164,741,924
Bangladesh	150,448,339
Russia	141,377,752
Nigeria	135,051,164
Japan	127,433,494
Mexico	108,700,891
Philippines	91,077,267
Vietnam	85,362,566
Germany	82,400,690
Egypt	80,335,036
Ethiopia	76,511,867
Turkey	71,156,647

The World Factbook 2009, CIA

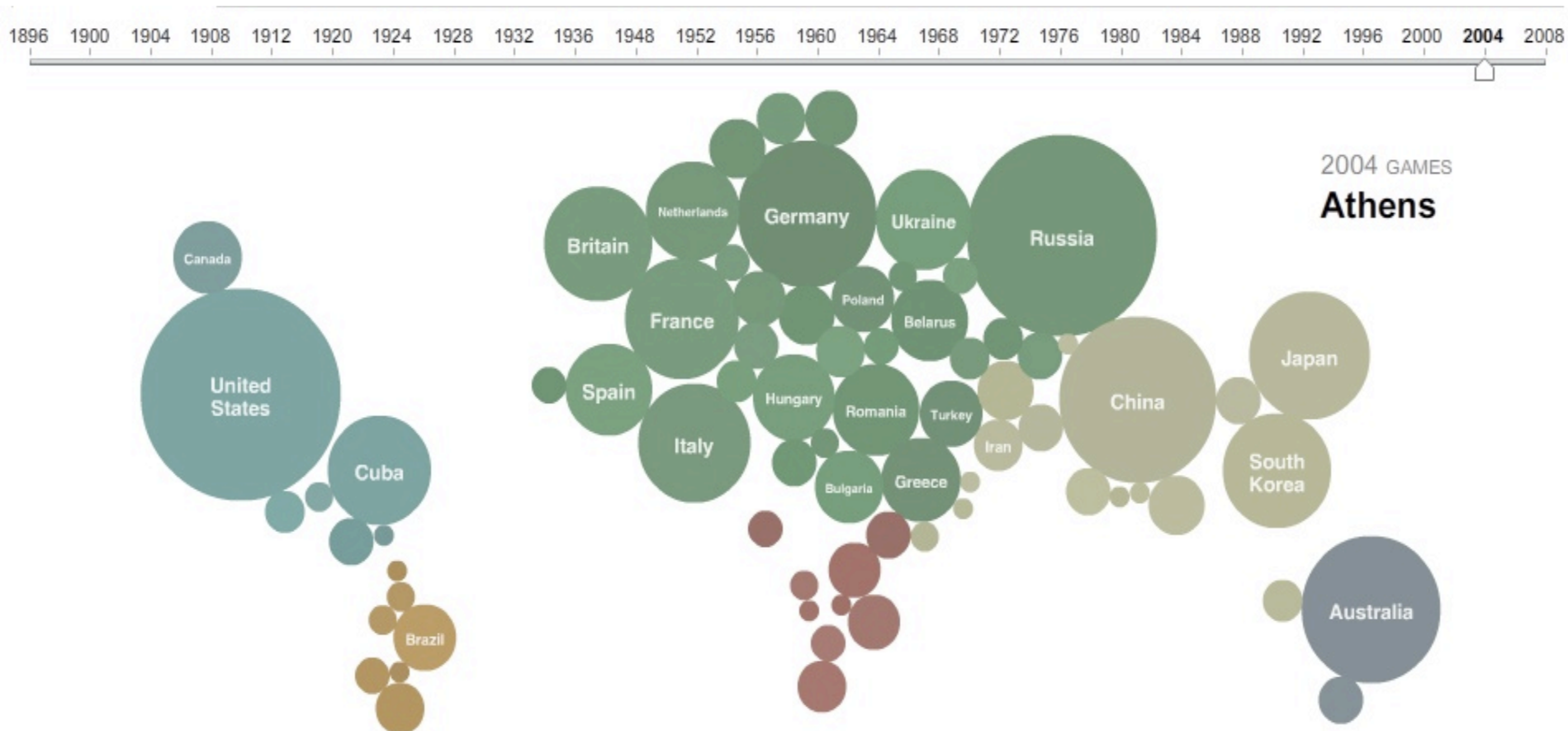
Americas .ag Antigua and Barbuda | .ai Anguilla | .an Netherlands Antilles | .ar Argentina | .aw Aruba | .bb Barbados | .bm Bermuda | .bo Bolivia | .br Brazil | .bs Bahamas | .bz Belize | .ca Canada | .cl Chile | .co Colombia | .cr Costa Rica | .cu Cuba | .dm Dominica | .do Dominican Republic | .ec Ecuador | .fk Falkland Islands (Malvinas) | .gd Grenada | .gf French Guiana | .gg Guadeloupe | .gs South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands | .gt Guatemala | .gy Guyana | .hn Honduras | .ht Haiti | .jm Jamaica | .kn Saint Kitts and Nevis | .ky Cayman Islands | .lc Saint Lucia | .mq Martinique | .ms Montserrat | .mx Mexico | .ni Nicaragua | .pa Panama | .pe Peru | .pr Puerto Rico | .py Paraguay | .re Reunion | .sa Saudi Arabia | .sc Shetland Islands | .se Sweden | .sg Singapore | .sh Saint Helena | .si Slovenia | .sk Slovakia | .sl Slovenia | .sm San Marino | .sn Senegal | .so Somalia | .st Sao Tome and Principe | .sv El Salvador | .tc Turks and Caicos Islands | .td Chad | .tf French Southern Territories | .tg Togo | .th Thailand | .ti Timor-Leste | .tk Tokelau | .tl Timor-Leste | .tm Tonga | .tn Tunisia | .to Tonga | .tr Turkey | .tt Trinidad and Tobago | .tv Tuvalu | .tw Taiwan | .tz Tanzania | .ua Ukraine | .ug Uganda | .uy Uruguay | .uz Uzbekistan | .va Holy See (Vatican City State) | .vc Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | .ve Venezuela | .vg Virgin Islands, British | .vi Virgin Islands, U.S. | .vn Vietnam | .vu Vanuatu | .wf Wallis and Futuna Islands | .ws Samoa | .ye Yemen | .za South Africa | .zm Zambia | .zw Zimbabwe

Europe .ad Andorra | .al Albania | .am Armenia | .at Austria | .az Azerbaijan | .ba Bosnia and Herzegovina | .be Belgium | .bg Bulgaria | .bi Bosnia and Herzegovina | .bj Benin | .bm Bermuda | .bo Bolivia | .br Brazil | .bs Bahamas | .bz Belize | .ca Canada | .cl Chile | .co Colombia | .cr Costa Rica | .cu Cuba | .dm Dominica | .do Dominican Republic | .ec Ecuador | .fk Falkland Islands (Malvinas) | .gd Grenada | .gf French Guiana | .gg Guadeloupe | .gs South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands | .gt Guatemala | .gy Guyana | .hn Honduras | .ht Haiti | .jm Jamaica | .kn Saint Kitts and Nevis | .ky Cayman Islands | .lc Saint Lucia | .mq Martinique | .ms Montserrat | .mx Mexico | .ni Nicaragua | .pa Panama | .pe Peru | .pr Puerto Rico | .py Paraguay | .re Reunion | .sa Saudi Arabia | .sc Shetland Islands | .se Sweden | .sg Singapore | .sh Saint Helena | .si Slovenia | .sk Slovakia | .sl Slovenia | .sm San Marino | .sn Senegal | .so Somalia | .st Sao Tome and Principe | .sv El Salvador | .tc Turks and Caicos Islands | .td Chad | .tf French Southern Territories | .tg Togo | .th Thailand | .ti Timor-Leste | .tk Tokelau | .tl Timor-Leste | .tm Tonga | .tn Tunisia | .to Tonga | .tr Turkey | .tt Trinidad and Tobago | .tv Tuvalu | .tw Taiwan | .tz Tanzania | .ua Ukraine | .ug Uganda | .uy Uruguay | .uz Uzbekistan | .va Holy See (Vatican City State) | .vc Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | .ve Venezuela | .vg Virgin Islands, British | .vi Virgin Islands, U.S. | .vn Vietnam | .vu Vanuatu | .wf Wallis and Futuna Islands | .ws Samoa | .ye Yemen | .za South Africa | .zm Zambia | .zw Zimbabwe

Middle East .ae United Arab Emirates | .af Afghanistan | .ag Antigua and Barbuda | .ai Anguilla | .al Albania | .am Armenia | .at Austria | .az Azerbaijan | .ba Bosnia and Herzegovina | .be Belgium | .bg Bulgaria | .bi Bosnia and Herzegovina | .bj Benin | .bm Bermuda | .bo Bolivia | .br Brazil | .bs Bahamas | .bz Belize | .ca Canada | .cl Chile | .co Colombia | .cr Costa Rica | .cu Cuba | .dm Dominica | .do Dominican Republic | .ec Ecuador | .fk Falkland Islands (Malvinas) | .gd Grenada | .gf French Guiana | .gg Guadeloupe | .gs South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands | .gt Guatemala | .gy Guyana | .hn Honduras | .ht Haiti | .jm Jamaica | .kn Saint Kitts and Nevis | .ky Cayman Islands | .lc Saint Lucia | .mq Martinique | .ms Montserrat | .mx Mexico | .ni Nicaragua | .pa Panama | .pe Peru | .pr Puerto Rico | .py Paraguay | .re Reunion | .sa Saudi Arabia | .sc Shetland Islands | .se Sweden | .sg Singapore | .sh Saint Helena | .si Slovenia | .sk Slovakia | .sl Slovenia | .sm San Marino | .sn Senegal | .so Somalia | .st Sao Tome and Principe | .sv El Salvador | .tc Turks and Caicos Islands | .td Chad | .tf French Southern Territories | .tg Togo | .th Thailand | .ti Timor-Leste | .tk Tokelau | .tl Timor-Leste | .tm Tonga | .tn Tunisia | .to Tonga | .tr Turkey | .tt Trinidad and Tobago | .tv Tuvalu | .tw Taiwan | .tz Tanzania | .ua Ukraine | .ug Uganda | .uy Uruguay | .uz Uzbekistan | .va Holy See (Vatican City State) | .vc Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | .ve Venezuela | .vg Virgin Islands, British | .vi Virgin Islands, U.S. | .vn Vietnam | .vu Vanuatu | .wf Wallis and Futuna Islands | .ws Samoa | .ye Yemen | .za South Africa | .zm Zambia | .zw Zimbabwe

Asia-Pacific .ac Ascension Island | .ad Andorra | .ae United Arab Emirates | .af Afghanistan | .ag Antigua and Barbuda | .ai Anguilla | .al Albania | .am Armenia | .at Austria | .az Azerbaijan | .ba Bosnia and Herzegovina | .be Belgium | .bg Bulgaria | .bi Bosnia and Herzegovina | .bj Benin | .bm Bermuda | .bo Bolivia | .br Brazil | .bs Bahamas | .bz Belize | .ca Canada | .cl Chile | .co Colombia | .cr Costa Rica | .cu Cuba | .dm Dominica | .do Dominican Republic | .ec Ecuador | .fk Falkland Islands (Malvinas) | .gd Grenada | .gf French Guiana | .gg Guadeloupe | .gs South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands | .gt Guatemala | .gy Guyana | .hn Honduras | .ht Haiti | .jm Jamaica | .kn Saint Kitts and Nevis | .ky Cayman Islands | .lc Saint Lucia | .mq Martinique | .ms Montserrat | .mx Mexico | .ni Nicaragua | .pa Panama | .pe Peru | .pr Puerto Rico | .py Paraguay | .re Reunion | .sa Saudi Arabia | .sc Shetland Islands | .se Sweden | .sg Singapore | .sh Saint Helena | .si Slovenia | .sk Slovakia | .sl Slovenia | .sm San Marino | .sn Senegal | .so Somalia | .st Sao Tome and Principe | .sv El Salvador | .tc Turks and Caicos Islands | .td Chad | .tf French Southern Territories | .tg Togo | .th Thailand | .ti Timor-Leste | .tk Tokelau | .tl Timor-Leste | .tm Tonga | .tn Tunisia | .to Tonga | .tr Turkey | .tt Trinidad and Tobago | .tv Tuvalu | .tw Taiwan | .tz Tanzania | .ua Ukraine | .ug Uganda | .uy Uruguay | .uz Uzbekistan | .va Holy See (Vatican City State) | .vc Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | .ve Venezuela | .vg Virgin Islands, British | .vi Virgin Islands, U.S. | .vn Vietnam | .vu Vanuatu | .wf Wallis and Futuna Islands | .ws Samoa | .ye Yemen | .za South Africa | .zm Zambia | .zw Zimbabwe

... which can be convenient,
depending on the message you want to convey.



NAOMI
KLEIN



THE
SHOCK
DOCTRINE

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WONDERFULLY CONTROVERSIAL,
AND SCARY AS HELL' JOHN LE CARRÉ
THE NO.1 INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

Holes in a flat world have
recently received their theory.

“Never cede the century to a country that censors Google!”
Thomas Friedman’s grandmother

THE INTERNET’S “BLACK HOLES”

Belarus, Burma, China, Cuba, Iran, Libya, Maldives, Nepal, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam

Fifteen countries are black holes in the World Wide Web. News is not free to circulate there. These enemies of the Internet are nonetheless here in Tunis and are talking without any shame about freedom of expression. www.rsf.org

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Conclusion

China will continue its long-term levelling enterprise despite, or because of, the shocks it creates worldwide.

Widening holes in the Chinese flatness will create new relief that will result in landslides.

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